

In The Claims:

Please replace the pending claims with the following replacement claim set:

1.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 1200 to about 2000.

9. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of hydrolysis greater than 80%.

10. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of hydrolysis greater than 98%.

11. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average denier of from about 1 to about 3 denier.

12. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers have an average length of from about 30 mm to about 60 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 65°C [, and insoluble in water below 65°C].

14. (Currently Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers are soluble in water above 90°C [, and insoluble in water below 90°C].

15. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has a thickness of from about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

16. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has a basis weight of from about 40 g/m² to about 100 g/m².

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34 and a substantially impermeable layer adhered to the web.

19. (Previously Amended) The article of Claim 18, wherein the substantially impermeable layer is polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, or ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolyester.

20. (Currently Amended) [A] The coated web [comprising the web] of Claim [34 and a coating on the web] 46, wherein the coating material [comprises] consisting essentially of a liquid selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, water, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, [and] acetone, and combinations thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) [A] The coated web [comprising the web] of Claim [34 and a] 46, wherein the coating material is on one or both sides of the [web] fabric, wherein the coating material [comprises] consisting essentially of an aqueous finishing formulation to impart water repellency to the [web] fabric.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The coated web of Claim 21, wherein the aqueous finishing formulation [comprises] consisting essentially of:

- (i) from about 0.01 to about 3 wt. % fluorocarbon; [and]

(ii) from about 0.01 to about 20 wt. % wax, and

(iii) water

based on a total weight of the aqueous finishing formulation.

24.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Amended) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has (i) an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96; (ii) a flammability rating of IBE or DNI when measured according to ASTM D1230-94; (iii) a water impact penetration less than 1.0 grams when measured by AATCC 42-94; or (iv) a combination of any of (i), (ii), and (iii).

27.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) [An] The article [comprising the web] of Claim [34] 18, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of gowns, drapes, and protective apparel.

30. (Previously Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an absorbent pad.

31. (Currently Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an article selected from the group consisting of gauze, swabs, and towels [, and wipes].

32. (Currently Amended) [The] An article comprising the coated web of Claim [31] 46, wherein the article [comprises] is a wipe that is at least 25% saturated with a solvent.

33. (Previously Amended) An article comprising the web of Claim 34, wherein the article comprises an air filter.

34. (Previously Amended) A spun-laced web consisting essentially of a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. the web is nonwoven;
- b. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the web;
- c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;
- d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web; and
- e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;
- f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and
- g. the web has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi when the web has a thickness of 0.4 mm and a basis weight of 70 gsm.

35.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A spun-laced web [comprising] consisting of a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. the web is non-woven;
- b. binding adhesives are [substantially] absent from the web;
- c. heat fusion is substantially absent from the web;
- d. needlepunching is substantially absent from the web;
- e. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the web;
- f. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000;

g. the web has a thickness of from about 0.05 mm to about 2.0 mm and a basis weight of from about 20 gsm to about 400 gsm; and

h. the web has a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Added) An article comprising the web of Claim 38 and a substantially impermeable layer adhered to the web.

41. (Previously Added) The article of Claim 40, wherein the substantially impermeable layer is polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, or ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolyester.

42.-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Added) The web of Claim 38, wherein:

i. the web has an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96.

46. (Currently Amended) A coated web consisting essentially of:

(I) [A] a spun-laced nonwoven fabric [comprising] consisting essentially of a plurality of pressure liquid entangled poly(vinyl alcohol) fibers, wherein:

- a. binding adhesives are substantially absent from the fabric;
- b. heat fusion is substantially absent from the fabric;
- c. needlepunching is substantially absent from the fabric;
- d. stitchbonding is substantially absent from the fabric;

e. the poly(vinyl alcohol) has a degree of polymerization of from about 300 to about 5000; and

f. the fabric has:

(i) a bursting strength value as measured according to ASTM D3786-87 of greater than 50 psi;

(ii) a basis weight of about 40 g/m² to about 100 g/m² per 0.4 mm of thickness, and a thickness of from about 0.1 mm to about 1.0 mm; and

(iii) an air permeability of greater than 150 CFM/sq. ft. when measured by ASTM D737-96; and

(II) a coating on an outer surface or within the fabric, wherein the coating consisting essentially of a coating material selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, water, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl propyl ketone, acetone, a solvent, a mixture of fluorocarbon and wax, and a combination thereof.

47.-48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) The web of Claim 34, wherein the web has a basis weight of from about 50 g/m² to about 80 g/m², and a thickness of about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

50. (New) The web of Claim 49, wherein the web has a basis weight of about 65 g/m².

51. (New) The web of Claim 38, wherein the web has a basis weight of from about 50 g/m² to about 80 g/m², and a thickness of about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

52. (New) The web of Claim 51, wherein the web has a basis weight of about 65 g/m².

53. (New) The coated web of Claim 46, wherein the fabric has a basis weight of from about 50 g/m² to about 80 g/m², and a thickness of about 0.3 mm to about 0.6 mm.

54. (New) The coated web of Claim 53, wherein the fabric has a basis weight of about 65 g/m².